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importance by the author and are cited wherever relevant to the topics in hand.

*Instructional value of the work.*—The fact of its publication in the case book series is sufficient voucher of its authoritativeness. But when a book is to be used by students it must also be beguiling. It must be interesting. The law student is not yet a lawyer. He has not yet learned how to run a question down. He should be coaxed, by the author's style, to turn the next page. This is one of the chief recommendations of Prof. Costigan's treatment.

The student who starts in to read will be fascinated and led on to the end—and then he will find the Fifty Resolutions of David Hoffman, and the Ninety-two A. B. A. Canons, the latter with helpful annotations.

The outstanding feature of the work as a whole is that it discloses the existence of a common law ethic, inherent in the life of the profession *ab ovo*, and disclosed by successive judicial expositions from time to time. The disbarment cases of today are no modern invasion or limitation of the rights of a guild; but the continuing application of standards implicit in the fundamental conceptions of the profession as one of high dignity and honor—*Noblesse oblige* is no merely mediaeval motto. It is a vital and essential element of our profession.

Whether the book be required in a law school course or not the students should buy or procure the book and digest and *assimilate* its contents. But the busy practitioner as well will find it valuable, stimulating, "stirring up his pure mind by way of remembrance," instructive.

The foot notes are an additionally valuable feature, and the author does not scorn current literature in aid of his exposition (e. g. "Life Story &c" from Everybody's, p, 369). The table of cases is properly differentiated from a table of "other authorities" (xxiii-xxvii).

The book is a milestone of progress, and its author has laid the profession and the law student body under a gratifying obligation, of which appreciation is the earliest payment due.

Henry W. Jessup.

THE LAW APPLIED TO MOTOR VEHICLES. By CHARLES J. BABBITT. 2nd Edition, By ARTHUR W. BLAKEMORE. Washington: JOHN BYRNE & Co. 1917. pp. cxxvi, 1262.

In the preface to the second edition, assurance is given that the original text was received with such favor as to justify its "perpetuation", although "the development of the law has made necessary the introduction of entirely new topics." Mr. Blakemore confesses that he has found the task of combining the new decisions with the late Mr. Babbitt's text a perplexing one.

We do not doubt this, for the book is not a systematic treatise, and the cases which have grown out of motor vehicle controversies involve questions of the most diverse character. These cases, as our authors declare, are numerous and are increasing rapidly, but they are not resulting in the development of a well-defined body of legal doctrine. There is no such thing as "A Law of Motor Vehicles". This is indicated in the title—"The Law Applied to Motor Vehicles."

Accordingly, the book is little more than a digest of miscellaneous cases, containing discussions of questions in constitutional law; of the proper exercise of the police power; of licensing and taxation; of the power of municipalities to regulate motor vehicles; of interstate travel and federal relations thereto; of ownership and its responsibilities; of chauffeurs and operators; of the motor vehicle as a dangerous agency; of gasoline as a nuisance; of the law of the road and the rights of pedestrians; of garages and their keepers; of the responsibility of manufacturers and sellers; of negligence in its various aspects; of proximate cause; of all sorts of questions in pleading and practice both on the civil and the criminal side and of an indefinite number of other uncorrelated topics.

We do not profess to have made a study of this volume, but a careful examination of several chapters convinces us that the work will be found useful by the practitioner. Its citation of cases appears to be exhaustive, its statement of legal doctrine accurate, and its comments and suggestions instructive.

*Francis M. Burdick.*

THE NEW ERA. By FRANCIS I. MCCANNA. Providence: SUN PRINTING Co. pp. xiii, 143.

It would be well worth while for any lawyer in general practice to read with care this treatise on industrial accident compensation legislation of Europe and the United States. The book can be read through in three or four hours and the reading of it will richly repay those members of the bar who, while aware in a general way that much progress is being made in practically all states of the union along the line of improving the conditions of the laboring classes by beneficent compensation legislation, have for the most part so little to do with compensation cases in their own practice that they have no definite knowledge of the extent to which this movement has been carried.

Mr. McCanna in his introduction disclaims any idea of having prepared an historical review or a complete statistical compilation upon his subject. He has, however, briefly and very pointedly, traced the history of compensation legislation in Europe and in this country and throughout his book calls attention to the victories that have been achieved in the direction of social betterment as well as the mistakes that have been made and are being made by legislatures and courts in the enactment and administration of compensation statutes.

The author treats in a more detailed manner the compensation act of the State of Rhode Island, but since the provisions of that act are similar to those in effect in the states generally, the book will be found of value to practicing attorneys throughout the country.

The attorney who purchases this book must not expect to get a complete text with numerous citations of judicial decisions to assist him in the preparation of any particular case that he may have in his office at the time, but if he will read the book with the idea of increasing his general knowledge of a field of legislation that is of vital importance to all classes just at this time, he will be richly repaid for the few hours devoted to the NEW ERA.

*Gerald Donovan.*